

North Cumberland Fire District

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2004

Opening:

The regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District was called to order at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 20, 2004 by Chairman Edward LeBlanc.

Present: Absent:

Edward LeBlanc, Chairman John Aharonian

Paul Lindquist, Vice Chairman

Brian Campbell

Ronald Dupont

Martin Klara

Matthew Gannon

Robert Audette

Others Present:

Rene Gendreau, Fire Chief

Fay Dakake, Clerk

Geraldine Dupont, Tax Collector

Daniel Hamel, Treasurer

A. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as edited. All in favor. So voted.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hamel presented a Financial Summary, Tax Collections Report, Profit and Loss Statements and a Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2004. Requested items explained were:

#6250 Represents reimbursement from Rick Alger for benefits under COBRA.

A motion was made by Mr. Dupont, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to accept the Treasurer's Report . All in favor. So voted.

C. Tax Collector's Report

The Tax Collector's Reports show taxes collected during the months of July and August 2004. Chairman LeBlanc congratulated Tax Collector Dupont on the success of the recent Tax Sale. On behalf of

the Board, he thanked her for a job well done.

A motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Audette, to accept the Tax Collector's Report. All in favor. So voted.

D. Chief's Report and Monthly Expenditures

Chief Gendreau briefed the Board on the following items:

A. EMS training was provided to department personnel in the Verizon vault.

B. Mark Paquin has completed defibrillator training.

C. Repairs as indicated to Engine 5 & 54.

D. Captain Delisle received approval from the DOT for replacement of the Department sign.

A motion was made by Mr. Klara, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to accept the Chief's Report and the monthly expenditures. All in favor. So voted.

E. Committee Reports

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes – No comments.

Personnel, Labor Relations, Negotiations, Nominations – No comments.

Negotiations – Mr. Campbell distributed a copy of the letter which he

received from Charles Delisle, Chairman of the Negotiation Committee of the Local 2722 IAFF. The letter states that the Local 2722 IAFF is withdrawing from negotiations in regard to the Rhode Island Pension Plan with compounding COLA. Mr. Campbell suggested that this matter be discussed in Executive Session at a later date.

Buildings, Ground and Apparatus – No comments.

Insurance – Chief Gendreau reported that he has not heard from Mark Shelley of ISO.

Public Relations – Chief Gendreau distributed copies of letters of appreciation recently received

Nominations – No comments.

F. Old Business

Tax Sale –

Tax Collector Gerry Dupont reported that the recent tax sale was successful. Seventeen properties were up for sale. She distributed a breakdown of costs associated with the tax sale, a report detailing properties sold and a spreadsheet of accounts of taxes due.

Attorney Baker entered the room at this time (7:25pm).

Attorney Baker stated that her goal was to zero out the cost to the District. The last step is for her and Gerry to re-visit the accounts of those who paid taxes but who did not include legal fees. This is considered a lien on the property. Letters will be sent to those accounts to recover that amount. It was left up to the Tax Collector to decide whether she or the Attorney would write these letters. All phone calls, however, would be directed to Attorney Baker.

Attorney Baker explained that property purchased at tax sale is only sold up to the amount of the value of the lien. Buyers purchase only a certain percentage and only own that percent of interest in that sale.

G. New Business –

Attorney Baker advised the District that after Tax Collector Dupont's research, 3 properties were found to have liens to NCFD. These 3 properties were purchased at a tax sale well over a year ago. NCFD owns tax title interest. At this time it is her recommendation that the District file "Foreclose the Right to Redemption" with Superior Court. If the Redemptions were successful NCFD would own outright a percentage of interest in some valuable property in Northern Cumberland. She explained that all cost would be covered whether the owner redeemed the property (they would acquire all legal fees) or the District recovered the interest, which would well cover the legal fees. The cost would approximately be \$160.00 to file with Superior Court and \$500.00 - \$700.00 in legal fees per property.

A motion was made by Mr. Dupont, seconded by Mr. Klara, to move forward legally to redeem these properties. All in favor. So voted.

H. Public Comment –

Captain Delisle commented that he had read in the paper that the Town of Cumberland was considering Impact Fees for new developments. He was wondering if the District could benefit from these fees. Chairman LeBlanc mentioned he would inquire with the Planning Officer.

Tax Collector Dupont and Attorney Baker learned of property owned by the Town of Cumberland which was sold and had been zeroed out for NCFD tax purposes. Attorney Baker advised that a statute exists that would allow NCFD to go back 3 years and collect all interest owed. Chairman LeBlanc suggested that a letter be sent to the Town of Cumberland requesting a summary of all the property they own for which NCFD is not being paid. Tax Collector Dupont agreed.

Adjournment

Motion is made by Mr. Dupont, seconded by Mr. Audette, to adjourn the meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District at 7:56 p.m. All in favor. So voted.

Minutes submitted by: Fay B. Dakake,
Clerk _____

Approved by: Edward LeBlanc,
Chairman _____